

AGENDA ITEM III D

PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY at NEW ORLEANS

Bachelor of General Studies (CIP 24.01.02)

BACKGROUND

In 1983, the Board of Regents conducted a statewide review of General Studies programs in order to ensure that such programs remain viable and yet maintain academic standards of high quality. As a result of this review, the Regents approved *Standards for Undergraduate General Studies Programs*, a set of fifteen recommendations to be implemented no later than the fall of 1984. These recommendations were shared with Southern University at New Orleans in the development of its current proposal, the review of which follows.

STAFF SUMMARY

Role, Scope, Mission

The program is appropriate to SUNO's role, scope and mission as an open admissions university dedicated to promoting the broad intellectual development and economic potential of its students.

Objectives

The program is to provide a high-quality, comprehensive liberal education by allowing a core curriculum (64 cr) to be supplemented by areas of concentration (25 cr) and interdisciplinary electives (36 cr). The main objective is to produce liberally-educated graduates who are capable of entering the workforce at higher levels and adapting to changing economic conditions. The program is also designed to give impetus to interdisciplinary collaborations among faculty.

Need

Students need the degree: they cannot matriculate at nearby selective universities that offer the B.G.S. and are thus without the option of earning it. Consequently, employment possibilities are diminished and student potential for career advancement lags. The University needs such a program to remain competitive: evidence from the University's Center for Student Retention and Success and from its own Office of Academic Affairs suggests that offering this program is likely to stimulate the University's efforts to improve student recruitment and retention.

Students

A significant amount of student interest and the University's strengthened efforts to improve retention suggest that the program is, by University projections, likely to attract and retain hundreds of full- and part-time students: from 50 freshmen, 50 sophomores, and 65 juniors in year one, to 110 freshmen, 70 sophomores, 85 juniors, and 85 seniors by year five.

According to these projections, the University anticipates 65 graduates of the program as early as year two and 85 or more by year five.

Faculty

Faculty appears to be sufficient. No new faculty is required.

Library and Other Informational Resources

Such resources appear adequate.

Facilities and Equipment

Facilities and equipment appear adequate.

Administration

The program will be administered by the Dean of the College of Arts and Social Sciences and coordinated by an overall Director. The program will also have an Advisory Board composed of faculty members from associated disciplines who will assist in program development and administration. Two student counselors will be hired.

Costs

No additional State monies are needed. The initial cost of hiring a Director (\$45,000), two counselors (\$37,500 each), and related expenses will be absorbed by Title III funds. Thereafter, as a result of tuition increases, total cost for the program (\$147,220) and subsequent increases in costs will be absorbed by the University's General Fund.

STAFF ANALYSIS

The proposed program appears to meet all requirements for implementation.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends approval of the Bachelor of General Studies program at Southern University, New Orleans (CIP Code 24.01.02) to be implemented in Fall, 2000.